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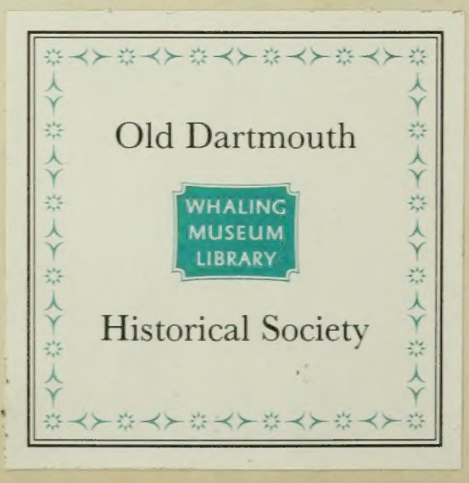

I

O. H. P. Butler

Journal of Summer 1878

Coral : 524
Walt. Myers : 524 B

Gideon N. Bartlett's

Journal

Of his Voyage, from San Francisco to St Laurence Bay, & Arctic Ocean, And Return, in

523A Ship "Open", Capt. Manter
523B Bark "Rainbow" " Cogan
— " "J. Howland" " Green
523C " "Progress" " Lapham
524A
524B " "Coral" " Owen
524C Schooner "Wm. H. Meyers" Williams

During voyage was on board above vessels part of time.

Saturday Sept. 21st 1878

Off Herald Island in Arctic Ocean

This day finds me still on board Bark Progress off the above Island. It is blowing a heavy gale, and we have a bad heavy head sea on. There are three ships in sight, today, we cannot tell for sure who they are, but call them the "Grad", "Gipsie" and "Lost Hope". Late this afternoon, the sea and wind, seem to be going down some, and the weather is generally looks better, with the Barometer rising quite steadily, so we hope soon to have some good whaling weather, although we have not yet seen any whales yet. We judge ourselves about 15 miles E. of Herald Island, and we have got a strong westerly current, we have not seen the Island for several days.

Ship under double reefed Topsails & Storm sails carrying.

Wind blowing from the Eastward

Thermometer about 30°

Saturday September 21st 1878.
Arctic Ocean off Herald Islands
This has been a pleasant day, with a heavy sea on, and a strong breeze, but much better weather, than we have had for the past ten days. This morning we raised a ship to leeward of us, and found it to be the "Leral", and at noon, we ran down and spoke him, as it was very rugged, we did not ran, but kept along to get under lee of him, when the "Leral" hauled aback, and we again spoke him, & after some assistance on our part, Capt Owen came on board, and stayed about ten minutes, it was very rugged almost, too rugged for a boat to be in the water.
We think ourselves somewhere about 30 miles to the South of the Island, as we have been under short sail, all the past two day, double reefed topsails.
Wind strong E. thermometer about 30°.

Sunday September 23rd 1878

Lat. 71.26 N. Long. 174.44 W.

This is a clear, and beautiful day, with a strong breeze, and considerable sea on; this is the finest day we have had for nearly two weeks, and the first time we have seen the sun clear.

We have seven ships in sight to day but cannot tell who they all are, but know that none of them is the "Rainbow", which is the one I am anxiously looking for just now, as it is getting late in the season, and a north'n gale may be looked for any day.

This is the first day, for over two weeks, that we have got good observations and we think them correct.

We have seen no whales as yet, but saw one this morning to windward but he was too rugged to lower. Wind strong from the Eastward, ship under double reefed topsails, on a bowline Thermometer about 30°

Monday September 2nd 1878

Lat. 71.21 N. Long 173.48 W

This has been a still better day, than yesterday, but the wind, and heavy swell dying out, prevents our approaching shooting.

This morning, we have seen eight ships in sight. "Esquimalt", "Eos Pole", by late in the afternoon, the "Coral" ran off to us, and spoke us, and Capt Owen wanted me, to come on board and stay awhile, so I packed up my lab things and Capt Jackson & myself went on board, Capt stayed to supper, and then went back to his ship, but I remained on "Coral" to make them a visit.

I am looking for "Rainbow" and am in hopes to soon find her, as all my things are there. Our observations put us, near the land, so we shall lay about Straight Wind strong from the Eastward Thermo about 38°.

Tuesday September 25th 1878

Lat 41.15 N Long 174.11 W.

Sunday Septembe 30th 1878
In Bering Straits

This is a bad day blowing a gale of wind, from N. to N.N.W. & a bad sea on. This morning we raised land, & found it to be False East Cape, about 15 miles off, and had to make sail and stand on the Eastern tack, so as to keep off, & clear East Cape. For about three hours this a.m. it blew very heavy, rapidly blowing the sea smooth, & so thick we could not see the Fly Jibboom. We saw no land again until about 3 p.m., when we raised, between the snow squalls, considerable land ahead, but it being covered with snow, we could not make it out, but knew the Diomedes, & East Cape, must be there somewhere, but still ran towards the Eastward to be sure, having run about half an hour, in a heavy squall, we raised heavy breakers, right ahead, only a half a mile away, so at once put the vessel off before the wind, towards the land, we had seen, as that was all we could do, it was most dark, and we knew we must get hold of something to tell where we were, & possibly, before dark. We ran about half an hour, when the man, who was aloft on the

Fore yard, raised, Fairway Rock, right ahead, so then we knew where we were, Fairway Rock is in the passage, about half way from the Diomedes to Cape Prince of Wales, and the heaves we had seen before, were on an Bottom shoal, to the south of Cape Prince of Wales. We passed the Diomedes at about 8 o'clock p.m.
The weather is very cold and all water makes ice, wherever it touches, our decks are all ice and so are the high sides & head where the pitchs into the sea. Wind, heavy from Northwest all day. Log completed 20°.
Now we have passed the Diomedes the weather seems to be growing better. The Schooner is under a close reefed Foresail & Foretop sail running about 9 knots

Good by to
Arctic Ocean

Monday October 1st 1878
Bhering Sea off Plover Bay

This day begins with a light fair wind and at 8 o'clock A.M. we raised the land about half way from St Lawrence Bay to Plover Bay about five miles off, so we kept along the land with a strong flood and passed Indian Point close too at about 10 o'clock a.m. when we got within about five miles of Plover Bay the wind died away, and we laid knocking around until about 9 o'clock in the evening, when we let our anchor go under the East head of Plover Bay.
The weather is beautiful, clear and cold, and the hills and mountains are covered with snow which look finely at a distance, tomorrow we shall land our natives, and be off as soon as possible, I guess.
The wind is light now but this morning was strong from the N.W. Barometer rising. Weather cool thermometer about 26°.

Tuesday October 2nd 1894
Behring Sea off Plover Bay

The morning is clear and beautiful and we are at anchor off East Head of Plover Bay. It has been a dead calm all day until late this afternoon when we got a little breeze.
The Esquimaux are busy taking away their walrus blubber, and our boats are getting water.
There was a schooner, the natives told us up the Bay, with some men that are going to winter here. So Capt Williams took a boat, and went up and found that the schooner was the Enquirer from Victoria, and that they had been another schooner up, and left three men from San Francisco that Jansen sent up. He made this mistake they built them a nice little house about forty feet long, and mostly a store house, the natives don't seem to like this much and have threatened to kill them before Spring.
Wind light from E. Thermometer about 2 P.M. took our anchor at 4 P.M. sailed for Tuxeda

Wednesday October 3rd 1878

Bering Sea off St Laurence Bay

This has been a fine day
light airs little head, during
the morning, most of the
time going only about three
knots until late in the
afternoon when we went
along a little faster
We lost sight of the high
land around Plover Bay
this morning and have
had St Laurence Island in
view all day, until about
3 o'clock this p. m.

The Barometer is going up
and looks like good
weather for awhile but it
is hard telling in this
country for we may have
a change in twelve hours
All hands engaged in sending
up the Lower Sail and
getting Fore top Gallant Sail
Yards. We are under
Lower sails two lifts and
Cut. Wind light S E & S S W.
Thermometer about 28°. I am
looking anxiously to see the
Ice Island astern.

Thursday October 4th 1878

Lat. 61.55 N. Long. 171.45 W.

This has been a beautiful day with a very light breeze from the Eastward with ship making about two or three knots through the day, along in the morning it begins to freeze up, and head a little to the S. E, and probably by morning, it will be blowing a gale, if not sooner. Our observations are only fair, but we know by our distance run that we are only about 60 or 70 miles South of St Matthews Island, several times they report from aloft that they see the land but they are not correct as the atmosphere is such that we could not see it over 35 miles off.

The weather is growing warmer thermometer about 28°. Barometer falling fast Wind strong S. E. Ship rounded all sail.

Friday October 5th 1878
Bering Sea off St Matthews Is.

This day begins with a strong breeze from the S.E. and cloudless and at noon it is blowing a gale from that quarter. We have the schooner under close reefed fore & mainsail, as the sea is a heavy sea on the schooner labors very heavy at times. This evening late it begins to moderate some, and at midnight it dies out entirely to a calm, and the Barometer has been falling fast. It now stands 29.20 and we expect a sudden shift of wind probably from S.W. We are now three days from Plover Bay and have not seen St Matthews Island yet, but judge ourselves to be south of it.
Wind very heavy S.E.
Thermometer about 30°
Eye watch from to day we hope to be through the Ice of Island.

Sunday October 6th 1878

Blowing Sea off St Matthews Is.

This morning begins with fine weather after the gale of yesterday, and with light breezes which until late in the afternoon, then we got a light breeze from the S.E again. Early this morning when it cleared away, we raised the above Island, about 20 miles to the East of us, thought it was West of us all the time, but we must have had a current to us & drifted a long ways in the gale. We have been working all day for the Island and just at night got over near to the N. end of Hall's Island, when the wind left us. We found ourselves nearer than we expected to be with no room about 1/4 of a mile, off & then very near breakers on the land. We could hear the bears very plainly. Wind light S.E. Thermometer about 30° Barometer corrected 29.20

Monday October 7th 1878
Bearing due N.E St Matthews Is.

This morning it is fine with a good breeze from the S.E. and we are a little to the E. of the Island having drifted through the night, but we have a fair wind, and are running down along the land about ayuile from it.
The headlands are very high, and can be seen, and heard a long way off. and looked as though they would not let a vessel live long in their jaws. As we pass along, we soon find Pinacle Island near to us, and it is rightly named as it is covered with Pinacles standing by itself with deep water all around it. We lose sight of this land, at the N.W. and are running off before a smart S.E. breeze, about 10 knots headed towards St. Pauls. The morning is beautiful with a large moon & the sky as clear as a bell.
We set under fore & aft sails only forward. Ther. 30

Tuesday October 8th 1878

Lat. 54.59 N. Long 170.06 W

This morning begins with a light breeze from the S.W. & during the day it gradually blows out so that towards night it is nearly a calm. We got good observations today and may see St Paul Island before dark, but it is cloudy and we cannot see far. The weather tonight looks squally and is raining hard, but hope it will not last long.

Today we have seen plenty of fur seals in the water around us which is a sign of St Paul being pretty near. These seals lay coiled up in the water asleep. I shot some but we cannot stop for them. We are under all sail but making only about one knot. Wind W. Thermometer about 26°. As the weather gets warmer our clothing seems to be a

Wednesday October 9th 1878
Bering Sea off St George's Islands

This morning we have a fine breeze from the S.E. it is fogging all the time. This forenoon we raised St George's Island which lays at the South of St Paul's, so we have passed the latter without seeing it. We have all sail out and are making about nine knots most of the time, and we hope to pass out of Unimak Straits by tomorrow night. The moon is nearly full and with but few clouds in the heavens makes it a very beautiful night, and probably it is the last that I shall ever see in Bering Sea. I say ever see but I hope not for I don't know a place that I would rather take a voyage to than the Arctic Ocean. The Northern Lights in these Latitudes are beautiful to see. Only at special times when clear. Wind strong S.W. Ther. 30° Barometer high 30.01

Thursday October 10th 1878

Fox Island W. of Unimak Stait

This morning we still have a stiffy S.W. gale with very heavy squalls of snow but they don't trouble us much as we are running before them. At 5½ o'clock this morning we raised the land, about 8 miles off & found ourselves a little to the Westward of the passage, so put the ship off Steering E by S and when we hauled up between the squalls soon found ourselves right in the passage & close to the Island of Unimak. The land looks wild enough being covered with snow & the sea breaking heavily upon it. We got clear of the passage at about 10 o'clock & then shaped our course for Frisco We hope this wind will hold a few days and let us get well to the Lees & look at the Fox Island which will soon be out of sight again I hope I can say yes. Wind S.W. Ther 32° We are having fine moonlight

nights & Dam laboring it
all up.
I think the Fox Island
are the wildest, and most
deserted pieces of land
I have seen yet. There
for outside of one or two
settlements of the Alaska
Commercial Co's, there are
no people on them, no
natives to board you in
canoes, and they do in
the Fox Islands
There is an active volcano
on Umnak Island but
it is seldom seen on
account of clouds, but for
a minute I saw the smoke
issuing from it.

Friday October 11th 1878
Lat. 52 33 N. Long. 160. 10.
This day begins pleasant and fair with the same strong fair wind, but towards afternoon lighter dies out some and begins to haul a little. We have run a distance of 220 miles since yesterday noon, and this gives us a good start away from the land, so now if it should blow hard we have plenty of sea room.
We hope to make the passage from these Islands to Tokyo in 15 days but may be more. We have had some fine nights lately, with a large moon clear and cold and everything in our favor.
Wind strong N.W. to W.N.W. with weather growing warmer. Thermometer about 40°. We have all sail out but the fore & aft sails don't much good

Saturday October 12th 1895
Lat. 51. N. Long. 157.30

This morning the wind died out & nearly a calm, and gradually sprung up from the S.S.E. and in the afternoon blew quite strong and it allowed us to just head our course all day and in the evening it hauled again around to the W.S.W. & at the night began to blow quite hard again.
We got no observation to day but by Dead Reckoning called our position as above.
The weather now looks settled and we hope to get a good run down to S.F. Frisco. This vessel is doing some good rolling and the Main deck is under water all the time so that every one is favored with wet feet.
The weather is now growing autumn and today the thermometer is about 35°
Wind strong W.S.W. & barometer falling

Sunday October 13th 1895
Lat. 49.42 N. Long. 151.30 W.

This day begins with a strong fair wind and we are going along about eight knots. The weather is cloudy so we guess at our position. We expect today that all the ships are out of the Arctic Ocean and headed towards San Francisco and only hope that they have got more oil than we left. If this wind only hold we shall make a good passage to San Francisco. We have only the square sails on the vessels now as the wind is dead aft so that the fore & aft sail will not draw. Ship rolling & tossing heavily and shipping much water Wind Steady N.W. & W. Thermometer about 40° Ship heading S by E.

Monday October 14th 1895

Lat. 48.= L. Long 146.30 W.

This has been another cloudy day very much like Sunday with a strong breeze through the day and dies away towards night to [illegible] or nearly a calm. All hands today engaged in washing down and cleaning it also Doors and as there is only a little of it it will not take long. We have run a distance of about 200 miles since yesterday noon and if we do as well tomorrow we shall be half way to Frisco, judging it in five days which is as good as we could expect this season of the year.

The weather is getting warmer and seems quite like civilization.

Wind Strong W.S.W.

Thermometer 50°

Barometer 30.20

Tuesday October 15th 1878

Lat 47.10 N. Long. 141.30 W

This day is just the same as we have had for the last week, blowing strong and ship making about eight knots and sometimes more, all hands engaged in scaling and loading our logs.

Our observations are not to be relied upon as we have not had the sun good since leaving the Fox Islands but we are making a fine passage having run probably about 200 miles in the last twenty four hours.

The phosphorous in water is beautiful tonight and it looks as though we were sailing through a sea of it.

Wind strong N.E. N. weather beginning to get warmer and pleasant.

Thermometer, about 50°

Barometer high 30.40.

Wednesday October 16th 1878

Lat 45. & Long. 137. 30 W.

This day begins with the same steady wind, only a little more Southerly, and much stronger in Squalls. At about 8 o'clock this A.M. we blew our Fore Top Gallant sail away and this evening we carried our Fore Top Mast Backstay away, but we do not care much as we are so near our port. We cannot depend upon the above observations for our exact position as we have seen no Sun. To day we were joined by a number of birds, which are called Coast pilots showing that we are getting into known latitude.

Wind very strong from the S.W. with Squalls.

Thermometer stood 45°

Rainy & unpleasant

Thursday October 17th 1878

Lat. 43.30 N. Long. 133.33 W.

This day begins & ends just
what yesterday until late in
the afternoon, when it
cleared away, and the wind
changed aft. tonight we
are only under four Square
Sails with the wind
dead aft. We are now run-
ning about 8 knots, and
think ourselves about
600 miles from San Francisco
We have run a distance
of about 150 miles since
yesterday noon.
Our observation are not
to be relied upon as we
have not seen the Sun
since leaving the Island
of St Paul, but as it is
so fine tonight we hope
to get a look at Old
Jamaica tomorrow.
This is a very beautiful
night, with the moon and
stars bright & shining
Wind steady N. by W.
and same as
when leaving Bonin

Friday October 16th 1868
Lat. 42.38 N. Long 132.21 W.

This day begins with a light breeze from the S. and towards noon it breezes up so we are going along 6 knots in the morning we had a change of wind, fair, and during the night it blew a gale but we left the old big again before it making about 10 or 11 knots We are today 9 days from the Oniniak Pass by Fox Island which is a fine run, and we hope to continue it the rest of voyage.
We have made since yesterday 180 miles, making us only about 500 miles from our port.
We have now got the Coast wind, and probably it will carry us into port. Wind, strong through the day from S.S.W. to N.W.
We got good observations today being the first since the 4th of this month
Barometer low. 29.50

Saturday October 19th 1878

Lat. 40 46 N. Long 128 13 W.

This day begins with a good breeze from aft so we can only carry our Spinny sails through the day, but towards night it hauled a little on our Port Quarter and then we set the rest of our canvas and are now going along about 8 knots per hour. At noon today we are only 300 miles from San Francisco and have run a distance of 225 miles since yesterday noon. This noon we raised a schooner a long way off standing into the Eastward which we think looks like civilization.

The wind is strong from W. to N.W. and the night is clear and beautiful a regular California night. We shall probably see the lights tomorrow night if we go along long like this. Barometer this night 30.30

Sunday October 20th 1878

Lat 38.50 N. Long 125.04

This day we have had a strong breze almost a gale from the N. and very highly cross sea running. We are this P.M. 120 miles from Frisco and only 90 miles from Point Arays and expect to make the latter early this evening and hope to be at the Head by daylight in the morning.

At 12.30 Midnight we raised Point Arays light and a half hour later we raised the light on the Farralone Islands some 25 miles off. The night is clear and beautiful and nothing to prevent our seeing lights a long way off.

Wind from the N. and very strong all day also a heavy Sea running

Weather warm

Monday October 21st 1849

Lat. & Long of San Francisco

This morning at 8 o'clock we passed the Point and almost instantly we lost the wind, and most of the sea, and we found ourselves at daylight about half way between the Point and the Heads, and here we lay most of the day drifting homeward, now and then getting a little breeze until towards night when it sprang up a breeze from the E. and we passed in by the Heads, at 4 o'clock we were boarded by many boats among which were the Custom House boat, also Mr H. C. Wright, R. S. Houstand, J. J. Knowles, and others the wind left us again by the harbor, but as the tide was in, and with the aid of the Custom House boat, we slowly worked up by the whalers, all of which looked natural, to me

Anchorage off Bale St
Thaif Worlde we let
go anchor at 6 o'clock
P.M. Making the
passage from Heyald
Island in Pacific Ocean
in 23 days from
East Cape Behring Straits in
21 days Plover Bay 18 days
and finally from the
Island of St Paul in
11 days and 3 hours which
is said to be as good as
any on record.

So ends my voyage in
Arctic, Summer of 1878

Gideon N. Haddock

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Aug 4 Point Barrow Aug 4 9
H. Brig W. H. Allen lost 10 days, stove in
the ice off Cape Smith. 4000 lbs Bone 225 bbls

Aug 23 Bark Florence stove by ice & lost
off Point Barrow Bone saved 4000 lbs